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AUTHOR De Cleene, Clare
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ABSTRACT

Based on information included in the annual reports from nine states, this report summarizes fiscal 1985 projects designed to provide library services for the handicapped that were supported by Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) funds. Because 1985 was the first year states reported funding provided to the handicapped, some reports combined projects for the blind and physically handicapped and for the handicapped, and it was not possible to determine the funding provided to each separately for other states. A review of the nine state reports indicates that the predominance of effort by libraries in serving the handicapped patron has been toward the hearing impaired. Problems noted in serving the hearing impaired included lack of ability to communicate with the deaf, lack of technology to provide services to the deaf, and lack of resource materials necessary to provide full service; however, steps being taken to overcome these difficulties were also reported. A tabular summary of LSCA-funded programs by state provides, for each project, the participating library, a brief project summary, the amount of LSCA funding, the amount of non-federal expenditures, and the total project expenditures. (KM)

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND IMPROVEMENT
LIBRARY PROGRAMS
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Library Services to the Handicapped

Fiscal Year 1985

By

Clare De Cleene

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For the purposes of the LSCA program, handicapped is defined as mentally retarded, hearing impaired, speech impaired, visually handicapped, seriously emotionally disturbed, orthopedically impaired, or otherwise health impaired. Because FY 85 was the first year States were to report funding provided to the handicapped, reports were sketchy and incomplete. Some reports included combined projects for the blind and physically handicapped and for the handicapped, and it was not possible to determine the funding provided to each separately.

Nine States (Alabama, Arizona, Illinois, Iova, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee) reported a total of $263,034 spent on programs for the handicapped. Of this, $254,575 was funded through LSCA money and the remaining amount was funded locally.

Projects in eight of the nine states were directed at providing library services to the hearing impaired, generally through the acquisition of telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD). One project (in Illinois) was for an educational toy collection for children with learning disabilities. And one project (in Pennsylvania) was directed towards individuals with mental and physical handicaps.

While people in this priority are handicapped in many ways, the predominance of effort by libraries in serving these patrons has been toward the hearing impaired. In revieving the project reports, several problems have been recognized. Generally library staff members lack the ability to communicate with the deaf. To overcome this, some projects have included efforts to train staff in sign language and have reported success in this area.

Libraries also lack the technology to provide service to the deaf. This is slowly being overcome as more and more libraries acquire TDDs, assistive listening devices and systems (ALDS), telecaption decoders, and closed captioned videos.

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And finally, libraries lack the resource materials necessary to provide full service. However, more and more lists of materials are being published as aids to developing a collection. Especially noteworthy are the bibliographies in Special Report: Library Services For Hard of Hearing Persons in the State Library of Florida's Technical Bulletin, vol. 15, no. 4, October/December 1986 and Illinois Libraries, vol. 68, no. 9, November 1986.

The most successful of these projects have involved extensive public relations programs, the strong commitment of library staff, and cooperation and coordination of schools and agencies already serving the needs of deaf and hearing impaired.

FY 85 LSCA FUNDED SERVICES TO THE HANDICAPPED

STATE	LIBRARY	PROJECT	EXPENDITURES LSCA	NON-FEDERAL	TOTAL
AL	Mobile Public Library	The goal of this project was to improve library services to deaf and hearing impaired patrons and those who work with them. Materials, including aids for teaching signing and signed and captioned audiovisual materials, relating to services to the deaf were purchased. Other materials, relating to living with deaf family members and employment of the deaf, were also included. Staff will use some of the grant funds to visit sites for services to the deaf in 1986.	$ 5,000	$ 1,093	$ 6,093
AZ	Phoenix Public Library	Community support and use of the Special Needs Center made the addition of a full-time Library Assistant imperative. With this increase in staff, the Center was able to train more library users of the Computer Workplace and to increase reference and information assists 100% over the previous year. Because of the success of the Center's program and a need for more staff to keep it functioning, the Phoenix City Council voted to create a new position of Library Assistant for the Center. Thus, that previously grant funded position is now funded by the City (as of September 1985). Three national conferences were attended by the Center's supervisor: "Abilities Expo" in Los Angeles; "Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired - Regional Convention" in San Diego; and "Arizona Deaf Networking Conference" in Tucson. A Macintosh computer unit is working and will be used to produce large materials and transfer information to and from the Apple IIe computers in the computer unit via modems. A statewide workshop was held in the spring on "Serving Special Populations in Your	31,117		31,117

STATE	LIBRARY	PROJECT	EXPENDITURES LSCA	NON-FEDERAL	TOTAL
AZ	Phoenix Public Library (cont.)	Library." The new videocassettes on sign language, handicapped awareness, and parenting the special needs child are used by deaf patrons, students, parents, and agencies. Current telecaptioned videocassettes have been purchased and now circulate. Five telecaptioned decoders and five videocassette recorder units were received and are available to deaf patrons.			
IL	Chicago Public Library	During the last half of April research was done on equipment, materials, and programs for the hearing impaired. Clubs, organizations, and gatherings of hearing impaired persons were visited/attended by the coordinator. Fifteen individuals from the hearing impaired community agreed to serve on an advisory committee for the Deaf Services Project. Three infrared professional sound systems including headsets, batteries, and foam ear cushions, two telecommunication devices for the deaf, and ten telecaption decoders were purchased. Orders were placed for 1,407 books, 1,382 pamphlets, 52 captioned films, 59 captioned videocassettes, and 252 realia items. A consultant was contracted, and program planning was initiated. A major strength of the Deaf Services Project is its advisory committee. The advisory committee has stated its preference for use of the term "hard of hearing" rather than "hearing impaired."	$ 61,199	$	$ 61,199
	Warren-Newport Public Library	This project was designed to purchase developmentally appropriate toys for children from birth to three years old, make them available at the library, and provide guidance to parents on their use. Staff worked with the Parent Infant Center to identify toys appropriate for children whose ages range from 0-5 but whose developmental levels range from 0-3. Additional criteria were established before toys would be included in the collection. By ordering through a toy jobber, the library was able to pur-	8,020		8,020

STATE	LIBRARY	PROJECT	EXPENDITURES LSCA	EXPENDITURES NON-FEDERAL	EXPENDITURES TOTAL
IL	Warren-Newport Public Library (cont.)	chase three items of each of 180 toys rather than the projected two items per toy. Marketing of the collection included the distribution of 5,000 bookmarks to 500 families on the Parent Infant Center mailing list to library patrons, to other libraries, and to special groups. An in-service session was held for library staff at which Parent Infant Center staff members described how the toys would be prescribed at the Center. A parent infant educator who worked with the library staff in describing the toys for the catalog was hired to conduct three educational programs in the community. Project toys were made available to library patrons in June. At the Parent Infant Center, educators can select a toy for a child and call the library to see if it is available. A "toy prescription" is written for the parent describing use of the toy with the child. Cooperation between the library and the Parent Infant Center has contributed to the success of the project. Both library and Parent Infant Center staffs were invited to serve on a regional ad-hoc committee of the Illinois State Board of Education concerning the Handicapped Early Childhood State Plan.			
	Rockford Public Library	In order to enhance library service to the deaf and hearing impaired, three portable TDDs were purchased for circulation. The machines circulate for 30 days. The project also included the training of library staff in sign language. Two staff members completed the course and have a sign vocabulary of 250 words. The library purchased two sets of the videocassette version of The Joy of Signing. A videocassette player with monitor was also purchased. The library will continue outreach efforts by having a staff member attend the Deaf Awareness monthly meeting at the Blind Center. Also planned is a liaison with the school district's Hearing Impaired office to promote the use of the three circulating TDDs.	6,546		6,546

STATE	LIBRARY	PROJECT	EXPENDITURES LSCA	EXPENDITURES NON-FEDERAL	EXPENDITURES TOTAL
IL	Shawnee Library System	Thirty-three TDDs were purchased and 27 have been placed in 26 libraries. Coverage from 24 newspapers was given at the time of placement of the TDDS. Four bookmarks produced by Shawnee library staff were distributed to libraries and used as handouts at fairs, displays, and presentations. TDD presentations were made at meetings of the Southern Illinois Patient Education Advisory Council, the Franklin-Williamson County Interagency Council, and the Inter-Agency Action Council. A telephone directory of state, Federal, business, and private numbers in the Shawnee area, and "800" numbers with voice access, is being compiled.	$ 9,752	$	$ 9,752
IA	Northwest Regional Lib. Sys.	This grant was made for a program to increase the availablity of library service to the hearing impaired. No detailed report was submitted.	7,366		7,366
MI	Lansing Public Library	This grant combined efforts to address the issues of literacy and hearing impaired. While the project primarily addressed improving children's reading skills, the project also included funds to purchase 43 captioned videocassettes to address the needs of the hearing impaired. Prior to this time, the library was not serving this portion of its handicapped patrons.	4,760		4,760
NJ	State	A Coordinator of Library Services to the Deaf was hired and visited half of the twenty-four libraries in the State which have TDDs. The Coordinator addressed the state convention of the New Jersey Association for the Deaf, a workshop of Parents for Deaf Awareness, and other groups. The focus of the current phase of this project was intended to emphasize encouraging the deaf community to make greater use of libraries.	3,568		3,568

10

11

STATE	LIBRARY	PROJECT	EXPENDITURES LSCA	NON-FEDERAL	TOTAL
NY	Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System	This project was designed to assist disabled children in understanding and adjusting to their disabling conditions through the use of print and non-print resources. Over 60 titles were purchased for disabled children about disabled children. Toys and games were also purchased which would allow children to identify with their disabilities. Selection was made after consulting with the John W. Harrold Educational Center, Head Start, Clinton County Mental Health Association, Clinton County Association for Retarded Children, and the physical therapy unit of Champlain Valley Physician's Hospital. Items in the collection include stuffed animals portraying disabilities, textured puzzles, puppets, and communication toys. A catalog of toys with pictures is being prepared and will be distributed.	$ 2,700	$	$ 2,700
	Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System	The goal of this project was to increase access to information for the deaf by providing communication capabilities. Four TDDs were purchased. A committee called TDD Contact was formed to build an awareness of TDDs and to secure funding so that those households in Clinton County that have at least one deaf family member might each possess a TDD.	2,250		2,250
	Mid-York Library System	In an effort to provide library service to the deaf, two remote control decoders were purchased for use with the 66 closed caption videocassettes that were acquired. It was determined that Mid-York's existing collection already included 58 captioned cassettes. The library worked with New York State School for the Deaf and the Children's Hospital Speech and Hearing Department to promote services.	3,690		3,690
	Onondaga County	This project assisted parents of handicapped children in learning more about specific disabilities and agencies and organizations to serve them. Materials were ordered but not yet received. Several bibliographies were in production. One program on "hearing dogs" was conducted.	6,250		6,250

STATE	LIBRARY	PROJECT	EXPENDITURES LSCA	NON-FEDERAL	TOTAL
PA	Osterhout Free Library	This was a local project to develop the library's collection and library programming for mentally and physically handicapped children and their parents. Materials were purchased which were designed for and about mentally and physically handicapped children and for specific types of adult users (parents, agency representatives, and teachers). Three objectives of this project included programs for parents, programs for mentally and physically handicapped children, and programs for children without apparent handicaps. Parent programs included the following: "Parent Information Night"; "What's For Dinner? Good Foods for Your Exceptional Child"; "Music: Its Magic for Your Child"; "Trust, Guardianships and Wills"; "Discipline and the Child With Special Needs"; "Testing: How the Results are Evaluated, What Testing Means to You and Your Child"; "Camping"; and "Adaptive Aquatics for the Physically Handicapped." For children without apparent disabilities, programs to heighten avareness included "The Same Inside," "Everyone Is Different; That's What Makes You So Special," and "The Kids On the Block." Seven programs vere conducted for children vith mental and physical handicaps. These included storytimes, craft sessions, and films. In adding materials to the collection, special emphasis vas put on purchasing pamphlets and nevsletters for the parent-teacher vertical file. As a result of a letter and questionaire to area agencies asking for descriptions of their services, a forty-page booklet entitled, "Who Can Help: A Guide for the Disabled and Their Families" vas prepared.	$ 8,183	$	$ 8,183
TN	State	"Library Service to the Deaf" vas expanded to statevide coverage based on a pilot project serving citizens of Davidson County in FY 80 and FY 81. The project vas expanded to enable the service to purchase equipment. Statevide telephone service is nov available for nevs, referral service, and programming.	100,000		100,000